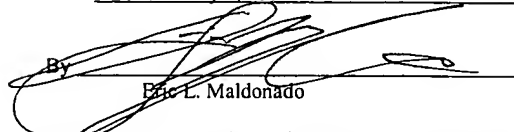


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By 
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Attorney Docket No. NECL 20.514 (100806-00218)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Koichiro HIRAO
Serial No.: 10/619,679
Filed: July 14, 2003
Title: IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS...
Examiner:
Art Unit: 2621

January 7, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copy of the document listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of an International Search Report dated December 3, 2003 from the corresponding International Patent Application. The document listed in Form PTO-1449 appears in the International Search Report.

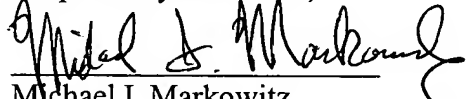
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

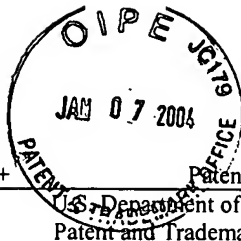
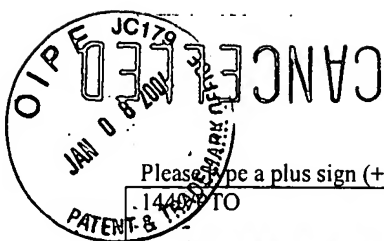
Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael I. Markowitz
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DOCKET NO.: NECL 20.514 (100806-00218)



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14408 TO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 10/619,679

Filing Date : July 14, 2003

First Named Inventor: K. HIRAO

Group Art Unit : 2621

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : NECL 20.514

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		2002/0107669		CHEN	08/08/2002	

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

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Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
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